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PATENT

ATTORNEY DOCKET No.: DERM1100-1

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Rheins and Morhenn Art Unit: 1647  
Application No.: 09/375,609 Examiner: L.Spector  
Filed: August 17, 1999  
Title: METHODS AND KITS FOR OBTAINING AND ANALYZING SKIN  
SAMPLES FOR THE DETECTION OF NUCLEIC ACIDS (As Amended)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed May 9, 2003, please consider the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of Claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.8

I hereby certify that the documents referred to as enclosed herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on September 9, 2003, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

*Karen LePari*  
Karen LePari